



The Minister's Daughter
By Julie Hearn

Escape From Reality...

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Key Facts

TITLE: The Minister's Daughter

AUTHOR: Julie Hearn

GENRE: Historical fiction

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2005

PUBLISHER: Simon Pulse

NARRATOR: Patience Madden

POINT OF VIEW: Combination of first and third person

TONE: Dark and gloomy

SETTING (TIME): 1645

SETTING (PLACE): England

PROTAGONIST: Nell

MAJOR CONFLICT: Major conflict is when Nell has dilemma whether to use the caul to save the soldier or not.

RISING ACTION: Rising action starts from when Nell rejects Grace's favor, giving the syrup.

CLIMAX: Climax is when Nell is about to be hanged.

FALLING ACTION: Falling action starts from when the Prince saves Nell

FORESHADOWING: The frog, the wooden heart and the caul.

Character List

NELL

The granddaughter of the village's the cunning women. Under the influence of her grandmother, Nell is kind, independent, wild and naive at the same time. Unlike the two daughters of the Minister, her appearance is mostly dirty and untidy. Despite her naiveness, she still manages to express her opinions clearly to others.

GRACE

The eldest daughter of the town's Minister. Known for her beauty, she is said to have deep dark brown eyes (that almost seem to be black) and having hair as smooth as wheat. Despite her stunning beauty, Grace is very shrewd, cunning, and sly. Unlike Nell, who is very much naive, Grace can be very deceptive and is very good at lying.

PATIENCE MADDEN

The youngest daughter of the town's Minister. Unlike her sister Grace, she stands out less when it comes to appearance or beauty. She always wishes that she has a smaller nose and cheeks less like dumplings. Like mentioned earlier, not only appearance wise but characteristics wise, Patience is again very different from Grace. She is very quiet, shy and almost seems dumb due to her silence.

THE MINISTER

The new minister who just moved from a neighboring country. A strict Puritan and also a father of two. Being such a strict Puritan, he is very strict, stubborn and intolerable. Just like his characteristics, he doesn't have such a pleasant appearance, he never smiles and has voice that is soft but threatening at the same time.

GRANNY/ "THE CUNNING WOMEN"

Known as the town's cunning women, she is also Nell's grandmother. She is a practitioner of folk magic and often times takes care of the town's people's problems. Despite her old age, she is very active, loud, wild but also very kind and wise. However just like any other grandmothers, physically she is very skinny and bony.

SAM TOWSER/ "THE BLACKSMITH'S SON"

Often mentioned as the blacksmith's son, Sam Towser is a very skinny and tall guy who is later in the story is responsible for Grace's pregnancy. He is very irresponsible, cowardly and sometimes even stupid. When he later finds out about Grace being pregnant, he simply does nothing but tells her that he is off to the army to fight for the war.

THE HOUSEKEEPER

Other than the Minister and his daughters, the housekeeper is the only woman who takes care of the house chores. Very quiet and diligent with her work most of the time, however she eventually gets involved in the family's lies after getting exposed to

Grace's secret. Appearance wise, she is very normal and has no special characteristics or beauty and is the type that blends in to the crowd.

MISTRESS BRAMLOW

Wife of John Bramlow, a normal mother with four daughters. She is a very kind and caring lady, whom Nell and her grandmother trusts the most compared to anyone else in the town. Physical appearance wise, after giving birth 5 times, she is very weak, lean and doesn't look so healthy. She also recently lost her youngest son. Later in the story Mistress Bramlow is the one who adopts Grace's baby, who was abandoned underneath the town's apple tree.

PISKIES

The town's fairies often mentioned in the story. They are known to be very mischievous and naughty. Despite these characteristics, the town's people believe that serving these piskies will bring them successful apple harvesting. Just like the mischievous characteristics, piskies are known to be very small but no one really knows what they exactly look like.

Major Character Analysis

NELL

From the beginning of the story, the two characters Nell and Grace can be described as the polar opposite of each other. Unlike Grace, who is appearance wise very beautiful and was very cunning and deceptive, Nell was a very innocent, wild, pure and some what naive. Based on these different characteristics, Nell symbolizes the idea of hope and dream. Despite several different accusations and claims the Minister's family made, Nell never committed any action based on the emotion of revenge or hatred. Although Nell refused to help Grace go through the process of abortion, she always tried to give Grace a hand to help. Also because of Nell's kind action of saving prince Charles II's life, she is saved from being hanged. Her actions often represent or implant the moral lesson of if one does good deed to others, they will receive good deed in return. Although towards the end of the story Nell has harder time trusting in people than before, there is no sign of hatred or anger towards the Minister's family. With the introduction of Nell's dreams she plans to achieve, it represents of symbolizes the idea of hope and how the existence of hope never really disappears.

GRACE MADDEN

Being exact opposite of Nell, Grace is the character with the beauty that every girl would envy. Even her sister within the story mentions several times how she wants her sister's look or appearance. However, underneath those beauty, for all those years she

has been hiding her cunningness, shrewdness and deceptiveness. Ever since the introduction to the character of Grace, lying was a part of her nature. Nell describes how her lies towards her father are so natural and how she is sly like a snake. However, although Grace may seem simply like a bad or evil character of the story, what she really represents within the story is the effect of expectations and pressures. Living underneath the roof with a strict and stubborn father, Grace uses deception and her shrewdness to escape from these expectations and pressures her father gives. Realizing the fact that her pregnancy will upset her father's expectations and reputation as a Minister, she uses her lies in order to cover up her secrets and blame it on others like Nell and her grandmother. From Grace's shrewdness and cunningness, it clearly represents or shows human's desire to escape from pressure and the amount of stress people get from such expectations.

PATIENCE MADDEN

Other than Nell, Grace's sister, Patience is another character that has personalities very different Grace. Appearance wise being normal compared to Grace, Patience is a very shy, timid and quiet character in the story. However, Patience would be the character within the story that goes through the most transformation and changes within one's characteristics. Although Patience had a very naive and some what stupid side to herself when she was young, after slowly finding out about the sinful actions her family has committed, she eventually turns into a very vengeful and hateful person. Through out the novel there are several sections that record her confessions of the story, and within these passages, Patience clearly writes her change in feelings

towards her sister and how she feels very betrayed from her family. Secondly, Patience not only is the character with the most transformation but another important symbol that Patience represents is the process guilt. In the beginning Patience was naive enough to believe in the fake stories and lies her family created to cover up for Grace's secret. However, as the story progresses and when she realizes the fact all the stories her sister told her was a lie, she tries to relieve her feeling of guilt for not stopping the action from happening by denying her charges and rejecting the idea that she was involved in the issue. In the end of the story when Patience accuses her sister for being a witch, we can see a clear use of denial in a sense that she tries to make the event logical by involving the existence of Satan and by blaming all the sinful and guilty actions to her sister.

Important Quotations

“Beware.’ she ways. ‘For a bee, when provoked, do sometimes leave its sting behind” (Hearn, 27).

Almost symbolizing or referring herself to a bee, Grace mentions this quote in the beginning of the story as a sign of warning. Just like how personality is, although Grace’s appearance may seem very pleasant and sweet, just how a bee hides their sting, Grace uses her shrewdness and deceptiveness in order to cover up her secret from getting spread to the town. Also this quote is important due to the fact that it foreshadows the overall plot of the story and how Grace’s whole family plans the big scam of witchcraft in order for Grace to keep her secret about her pregnancy and to keep the Minister’s reputations among people. The quote also represents the idea of revenge that all humans have within one self due to nature and how humans can commit many different irrational actions just for the sake of revenge.

“Tell me this and only this. If...if the ting inside me be no more...if I be rid of it for good and all, how would I know?” (Hearn, 116)

The stress from the pressure and expectation of being a daughter of a Puritan Minister is clearly shown by Grace’s outburst towards Nell about the baby and getting rid of the baby in order to keep her secret. With Grace’s clear desire to get rid of the baby, the readers feel or really understand the amount of stress she is going through due to the idea that her pregnancy and ruin not only her reputation but mainly her father’s reputation among the town’s people as the holy Puritan Minister. This quote also reflects the idea of secret on human life and how sometimes humans will do any

irrational or ethically wrong things in order to hide their weakness from getting exposed to others.

“I tried to still the panic that rose in me, knowing that it was I, Patience Madden, who had taken the jeweled frog and should by rights be punished” (Hearn, 167).

From the beginning of the story, Patience has always listened to Grace and simply followed to her orders. With Patience being the naive and quiet girl, she has believed in whatever story Grace told her of. However from this scene, the reader can clearly realize the fact that Patience slowly begins to form her own ideas and opinions about the event going around her. Also this is the turning point in the story which Patience now realizes the fact that her family has been committing sinful and guilty actions in order to cover up for Grace’s secret. From this point on, the bondage or relationship Patience believe to have with her family slowly falls apart. Patience now delivers the story towards the idea that she is not the one who should be punished for those events, but it should be her own sister Grace getting punished.

“Wherever it is we sail to. I shall make a study of all that lives and grows in the pace and be a midwife and a healer there. I will do that, whatever happens” (Hearn, 232).

From Nell’s clear set of goals being shared with Mistress Bramlow, the theme of hope is clearly shown and represented. Although the events Nell goes through in the story can be traumatic, she still continues to live life in a positive manner and rather than seeking revenge over the Minister’s family she hopes for Grace’s luck. With Nell’s goals, it brings up the theme or the idea of hope existing in any case and that dreams never disappear. This quote also shows the main difference between Patience and Nell’s

reaction towards the issue. Unlike Nell, Patience eventually ends her bonding and trust with her sister. From this difference, it shows how Nell symbolizes the idea of ongoing peace and hopes every human being has within one self.

“Well now, I can see by your faces, brother, that my words are no longer falling on deaf ears. I am glad of that. For it is not I who should be here. Not I who am a witch. It is my sister, Grace” (Hearn, 258).

Through the endless number of accusations, lies, and stories, in the end the only thing that is left of Patience was vengeance and the breaking of the bond/relationship with her sister. Although Patience tries to deny or reject her responsibility of her action, such denial takes place because of the idea that Patience is aware of her guiltiness and shamefulness. However, because guiltiness in humans can cause us to commit many different irrational actions, Patience eventually continues the cycle of accusation by accusing her own sister of being a witch. This quote not only represents the theme of guilt and shame but brings up another important moral message of the book which is karma. For certain individuals or groups that cause misdeed toward others, these misdeed will eventually return to them. For the Minister's family, due to their obsession and focus to simply save their reputation, eventually in the end, their family relationship is ruined and can never be brought together again.

Themes

APPEARANCE IS NOT EVERYTHING.

In the beginning of the chapter, the author describes Grace to be "the pretty one" (Hearn 29). She acts sweet and caring girl to the towns people when in truth she despises the peasants and is egocentric. She was the one who lead the towns people to accuse the cunning woman and Nell to be witches and attempted to have Nell executed. Patience says that Grace has planned the entire witchcraft and that it was "her fault. She started it and now she's hurting me" to conceal her crime (2).

The minister in another way appears more reliable and respectful than the cunning woman due to this high status. He appears gentle, thoughtful, and trustworthy when in truth he was the one who planned out everything. He tells the housekeeper that "whatever ails my elder daughter is the Devil's work, Satan's trickery! The result of witchcraft!" when in truth he knows that Grace is pregnant (145). He also wants Nell dead so that it is "the cross he bears. His secret shame" to be silent on the truth and reinforce the false (198).

PEOPLE BLAME OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN GUILT AND WILL DO EVERYTHING TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM FALLING DOWN.

In the novel, Grace becomes pregnant due to her irresponsibility however she ends up blaming Nell for her pregnancy because she does not want her name to be dirtied and wants someone else to be blamed. When Nell came to say she cannot

perform the abortion, Grace says, "... burns... it burns... Satan is here! She brought him to me!" indicating that Nell is a witch, planting the suspicion among people (Hearn).

This characteristic is also shown in Patience. Patience was tricked by her sister and was a culprit for accusing an innocent girl. She revenges to her sister by accusing Grace for making her act in that way, because she was "artful as a snake and already on the slippery slope to Hell..." forcing her sister to participate in such misdeed (118).

Symbols

THE CARDBOARD THAT BEARS THE INITIALS "G" AND "S"

The cardboard symbolizes the past that can never be separated from your life.

When Grace and Sam were lovers in the beginning of the novel, they made a mistake of having a baby. Although Sam and Grace parted and Grace gave away the baby, the cardboard is still left as an evidence of the affair. Grace kept the board "beneath her side of the mattress" to treasure the memory of her love (Hearn 34).

Later on, the cardboard becomes an important evidence for Patience to accuse Grace of being a witch by "'G' for 'Grace' and that awful, twisting 'S,' Satan's brand" (257). The cardboard is the living evidence for Grace's affair in the past and no matter how much she tries escape her sinful past, it always comes back to her hunting her down.

THE PISKIES

The piskies are magical characters in the book who leads the readers. Piskies represent the reflection of one's life. Piskies tells the reader the future of the character based on their characteristics. Piskies said about Nell's future in chapter 9 that she will be "a respected midwife and a healer," offering hints for Nell's future based on her true characteristics (Hearn 236).

The piskies do not prevent such misdeeds from taking place also. However they often show the guilt the person bears. For example, when the housekeeper asks the piskie if she is going to be rich, the piskie responds, "and better ye be a witch than a

getting rich any day, any era, any lifetime... Snitch. Traitor. Cause of sorrow" meaning that her guilt might not be well-known to others but she will be punished for her crimes (146). The piskies offer the most accurate reflection of the character in the novel.

Chapter Summaries

APRIL

The story begins with in the Patience Madden's point of view with her introduction, telling about her sister, Grace, with resentment. Patience says that the huge mass started when Grace was fifteen.

In the beginning of chapter with third point of view, Nell, the protagonist, and Sam, the blacksmith's son, have little conversation. After the conversation, Sam leaves Nell behind, saying he has some works to do, and walks to the ancient apple tree for a ritual. With the horseshoe nail, he carves the letter S, the initial of his name, and then G, an initial of his beloved.

By Mistress Denby, Nell notices that the Bramlow baby is coming, and hurries on. There are Watchers, women, and the cunning woman, Nell's grandmother, by the time when Nell arrives. The cunning woman then forces Nell to practice the work of midwife. Nell refuses at first, but she finally helps Mistress Bramlow giving birth. With a lot of psychological pressure, she successfully finishes her work. In order to baptize the newborn, Nell and Sam go to the minister's house to bring the minister. Since their mission is very important, Nell and Sam enter the minister's house without a permission after knocking the door several times with a lot of waiting. There they meet Grace Madden and Patience Madden for the first time. After short conversation with Grace and Patience, Nell and Sam could finally the minister. Even if Nell and Sam gave the minister's family a bad first impression for entering without agreement, they could bring the minister to the newborn.

MAY

The chapter begins with describing how Nell is closely related with piskies, as a merrybegot. One day, Nell could sense Tom and Grace meeting each other with help of piskies. Then the piskies warn Nell for the troubles she would face with mysterious clues: shape of the ranter, shape of the frog and shape of the heart that cannot love.

On Sunday in the church, the minister gives speech, and claims that a woman has acted an lascivious behavior and that woman is Nell. She denies his claim, and asks Sam to be her witness. However, he ignores her favor. Nell is in a rage when she comes back to her house, telling the cunning woman that it is the minister's daughter not herself. The cunning woman calms her down, and starts to think about the fairychild which Nell, who isn't fully trained, should take responsibility of.

JUNE

The chapter starts with Nell goes to fairy hill by the help of fairymanchild. Before she goes, the cunning woman warns Nell to be cautious of deceptions from fairies. Nell tells her not to worry. When Nell reaches to the fairy hill, she uses special spell called 'A Spell to Enter a Hill as If It were Made of Mist'. When Nell reaches to the fairy woman, Nell helped the woman giving birth. After it is done, Nell receives the traditional gift, the caul of the newborn fairy, which can save any life. Nell has done her job and walks to the exit. As she gets closer to the exit, many fairies tries to tempt Nell. Nell is once almost trapped to the fairies' temptation. However, she reminds the cunning woman's advice and could safely go backs to her house with the help of the fairymanchild.

JULY

After the incident in the fairy hill, Nell learns from the cunning woman about the information to be a merrybegot.

At the same time, Grace is having a meeting with Sam, asking a question “Will you stand by me?” Sam tells Grace that he will join the war, and Grace lets him. After meeting Sam, Grace goes to Nell’s house for the syrup that can kill a baby inside her body. Even though Grace meets Nell instead of the cunning woman, she tries to the syrup. However, once Nell figures out that the baby is the merrybegot, Nell tells Grace that no one would help you with that problem. Grace shows her resentment towards Nell and the cunning woman and leaves the house.

AUGUST

At the beginning of the chapter, Nell visits the minister’s house to see Grace. Nell encourages Grace to look after herself and her baby. Nell tells to Patience, who looks confused, that Grace has a baby of Sam Towser, the blacksmith’s son. That is when Grace starts to acts out as if she is witched by Nell. Nell tries to calm Grace down with Patience’s help. However, even Patience starts to act like her sister. Nell gives up calming down those girls. Nell yells loud enough for the minister and the housekeeper to hear that Grace has a baby with Sam Towser, and runs away.

Nell gets to her home after the incident. She has little conversation with her grandmother, the cunning woman, and figures out that the cunning woman’s health is not as normal as usual.

SEPTEMBER

In the beginning of the chapter, the cunning woman is having a serious memory loss that she does not even recognize her own granddaughter. Nell leaves her in the house, and goes outside to get a cordial for the cunning woman.

At that time, the minister gathers people in the village in the church with witchfinder General, Matthew Hopkins. The minister instigates people to recognize the cunning woman and Nell to be witches. People try to find the proof for that those women are witches. One person said the other village has figured out the witches with this method that people throw them in the pond and if they sink to the bottom they are witches, and if they float then they are not witches. Most people agree with that opinion, and they actually did the activity to the cunning woman.

Nell sees people throwing the cunning woman into the pond on her way home. After some time passes, people lift the cunning woman, doubting that this method would not define the witchcraft. When people move away, Nell goes to the cunning woman to see if she is alright. However, she dies after few moments. Before the cunning woman dies, she gives the frog-like emerald jewel to Nell, saying it belongs to Nell's mother. Nell tries to use the caul which can save any life, however the cunning woman wants it to be used for more beneficial situation.

OCTOBER

The chapter begins with Nell wandering places and missing the cunning woman. During the wandering, Nell encounters a soldier who is almost dead. In this situation, Nell is having a dilemma, whether to use the caul or not. She thinks carefully and decides to use it. Even though she wasn't sure saving this soldier would result more

beneficial situation that saving the cunning woman, Nell ends up using caul. The soldier thanks to Nell and asks what payment does she want for saving him. Nell gives him a favor that to give information about whether Sam Towser is still alive or not and let the blacksmith of this village know about it.

When Nell returns home, Patience accuses Nell of being a witch with giving an evidence that the frog-like emerald jewel is in Nell's hand, and Nell uses it to curse Grace.

NOVEMBER

In the beginning of the chapter, piskies are angry with Nell accusing of being a witch. Nell is in a situation where she will be hanged. When Nell is about to be hanged, that is when the soldier who Nell saved comes and interrupted the death penalty. The soldier reveals his identity. It is the Prince of the country.

The Prince negotiates with village people and come up with the solution that she will live if she is three villages away from this village. Nell comes back to her house to pack up. Then she follows the Prince. She later on frightens that she is about to get hanged.

DECEMBER

It seems like Nell is adapting to a new environment with the Prince. But in her deep inside of her mind she is still have feeling of doubt towards all human, which also includes the Prince.

Later in this chapter, the Prince tells Nell to close her eyes for a gift. Nell hears the sound of someone other than the Prince coming in to the room. Nell frightens but still closes her eyes, and thinks about all the worst possible scenarios she could think of.

Later, when she open her eyes, she sees her familiar in her hands. Nell promises her self that she will never doubt the Prince again.

JANUARY

The chapter begins with village people having annual ritual for next apple harvest. During the ritual people recognize that a newborn baby is half-buried in the snow, and Mistress Bramlow decides to raise the newborn.

Mistress Bramlow goes to the minister's house to let him know that she is raising another child, and to bring the minister for the baptism. When Mistress Bramlow is in her way home, she hears the yelling towards the housekeeper that she should have throw the baby in more distant place. Mistress Bramlow encounters Patience Madden, and Mistress Bramlow figures out that Patience know all. Mistress Bramlow gave the newborn a name, Nathan, which means a gift.

The book ends with Patience Madden telling story that she is in a jail, accused of being a witch. Patience believes that all this mass has started from the her sister, Grace, and accuses that Grace is the witch.

Chapter Questions

CHAPTER 1

1. What do you think will happen to Nell and the new minister?

The minister does not like Nell because he considers her to be very rude. The minister, as mentioned, is very strict and holds grudge against people easily. He will try to criticize and embarrass Nell in front of people whenever he gets a chance so that he can punish her.

2. What do you think about the point of the view of the story? How does changing the narrator affect the story?

The alteration of the narration confuses the readers sometimes because there are some differences between the two narrations. However, by hearing the story both from a third-person's point of view and from Patience, the story is more accurate and it enhances the atmosphere so that the reader can focus on the reading easily.

3. What do you think about the role of Christianity and Superstition in this chapter?

The role of superstition seems to be stronger than Christianity in the town however they do not fully trust the power of the superstition. The superstition is what people seek for, believing it to be the practical solution to cure the problems.

Christianity, in the other hand, works as the comfort for people instead of having an actual role in people's lives. The towns people go to church to not be isolated and to have a better life when dead.

CHAPTER 2

1. Why do you think the author is using piskies in the novel? What role do they play?

The author is using piskies to help the reader to concentrate on the plot easier. The piskies add the taste of mystery and wonder to the novel, so it enhances the mood and the tone of the book.

2. What do you think triggers the conflicts that exist between the minister and Nell?

The minister obviously considers the peasants to be rude, and stupid so he looks down on them. Nell, however, does not like to be looked down so she fights back to be treated equally and these two different ideas continue to clash, deepening the negative feelings that exist.

3. What do you think about the future of Nell and the cunning woman? What do you think will happen to them in the future?

Nell and the cunning woman is considered as the magical people because they have all these abilities to cure people as well as communicate with the piskies. Thus, there is without a doubt that they will be considered as witches in the future.

CHAPTER 3

1. What are the purpose of the piskies? Are they there to enhance the mood of the novel or are they there to emphasize that this novel is a fiction?

The original purpose of the piskies was to make the book sound more realistic as well as help the readers to concentrate better. However, when reading the book, the idea of fiction and fantasy continues to strike on the reader's mind so it interferes the reader from picturing the actual scene.

2. Patience believes that she has encountered the devil. What do you think about this mysterious figure Patience is talking about?

Patience probably met another kind of a fairy that exist in the world and she believes that he is the devil. Piskies have already mentioned that there were numerous kinds of fairies existing out there in the world and they avoid direct contact with people by being active at night. So, the mysterious figure Patience encounter is probably another type of fairy.

3. How is the world of piskies similar and different to the human world?

The world of piskies is the ideal world of human. They have eternity as well as all the pleasures that people desire, so people wants to live there. However, the ugliness resulting from these desires are hidden underneath. The piskeis cannot detect any feelings nor can they cherish memories. They are breathing robots who have magical powers they can use.

CHAPTER 4

1. What do you think of Grace and Sam? Who is responsible for Grace's pregnancy?

Grace and Sam are both responsible for Grace's pregnancy but Sam is more responsible. He is trying to avoid the situation every single time he encounters but still

wants to maintain a good relationship with Grace because she is beautiful. He does not care for her life or her health but only tries to satisfy himself through possessing her beauty and charm.

2. What do you think is happening to the cunning woman? How would this affect Nell's life?

The cunning woman is having difficulties recalling information as well as remembering who she is. This will eventually make the cunning woman make a mistake that can affect the entire town. Nell, in the other hand, lost her most trustful family and so she has to be more independent and strong to survive.

3. What do you think Grace is going to do to Nell? Do you think Nell is guilty for the baby?

Grace is going to accuse Nell of being a witch who has bewitched her so that she can conceal her pregnancy as well as get rid of the only person except herself and Sam who knows about her great secret. Nell is not guilty because killing another human being, disregarding the age and gender, is a crime. Nell, who is a merrybegot, cannot cause any harm to the world and she is doing the right thing for both Grace and her baby.

CHAPTER 5

1. What characteristics of Grace can we learn from this chapter?

Grace is very cunning and egocentric because she is only acting to save herself. She does not care how her behavior might affect the town but does it to save herself

from being called by bad names. She does not hesitate to use other people as well as threaten them for her own sake as well.

2. What is happening to the towns people? What will happen to the town in the future?

The town is falling into chaos because they are troubled by the cunning woman and Nell. They do not know if they are witches or not but the witch-hunter makes it sound like they are. Thus, they are going to go after every single person and accuse the cunning woman of being a witch to save themselves.

3. What do you think about the cunning woman's story. Do you think it is acceptable to not tell the truth all the time?

The truth might be more hurtful for the person so it is not necessary for people to always tell the truth. By telling Nell that her parents have died trying to save her, Nell will be troubled and would feel guilty for her parents and that would interfere with her life.

CHAPTER 6

1. What do you think is happening to Grace and Patience. Can acting mad really affect your personality to drive you insane?

In the very first chapter, Patience admitted that they were acting to blame Nell for bewitching them. However, they do not know if it is true or fake anymore because they have been acting for a long time and now it is creating false illusions for them. Enforcing one idea for a long time can alter one's condition, changing the fake information to a true story.

2. Who is responsible for the cunning woman's death: the towns people, the minister, Grace, or the witch-hunter?

The most responsible character for the cunning woman's death is Grace. If Grace did not act as if she was bewitched, none of this event would take place in the first time. Everyone would have lived a happy life and no one will have to suffer from the loss of beloved. However, Grace started this entire story up to save her good name so she is the most responsible character for the cunning woman's death.

3. The minister and the housekeeper already knows that Grace is pregnant and there is no witchcraft yet they still conceal the truth for their sake. How will you act in the minister's shoes?

The minister is a person who bears a lot of responsibility and respect. Accusing a person of being a witch to maintain his reputation is not a true characteristic of a minister. It is best for one to reveal the truth and bear the blame because then one can be free from living under guilt as well as not being shameful for God.

CHAPTER 7

1. The towns people are bringing supplies to Nell for their crime. Do you think apologizing and repenting replaces the feeling of great loss?

The crimes that are done can never be undone so apologizing is the best solution to repent. However, this will not fully replace the feeling of loss and sadness because what is done is already done. In Nell's case, especially, killing a person for an unproven

idea and then repenting it does not make up the feeling Nell has for her grandmother's death.

2. What do you think will happen to the wounded boy and Nell? Why did the author introduced him in the novel?

Every character has a purpose in the novel so the boy would probably be a helpful character to Nell. Nell is in great trouble right now because the towns people consider her as a witch so the boy would work for Nell so that she can clear off the false charge set on her.

3. At the end of the book, Nell is accused of being a witch. Based on the information acquired, do you think Nell is a witch?

The definition of a witch is a woman who has evil magic powers and tries to harm people. Nell and the cunning woman seems to have magical powers to cure people as well as communicate with the people however they do not cause harm to people. They try to do the best for other people and tries to ensure that the piskies are not harming the towns people. Judging Nell as a witch based on mere magical powers is not correct.

CHAPTER 8

1. Patience says that she has never been a "false witness." How is this statement contradictory?

Patience has acted as a false witness during her childhood. She acted as if the witch came to her and bewitched her and she knew it was all acting. She acted to save herself and has lied under oath. Thus she has been a false witness the rest of her life.

2. The minister already knows that Nell is not a witch yet wishes her to be executed for his sake. How is the minister a hypocrite?

The minister is a person who should work for God and make judgments based on God's preach. He should never lie under oath as well as make things right so that there is no more conflicts. However, the minister is creating more problems by expanding the entire idea of witchcraft to the people as well as lying under oath to save himself. To him, God is an excuse he can use to make exceptions to the world.

3. The wounded boy appears and claims himself as a prince and saves Nell from being executed. How would this affect the entire plot of the novel?

Now that Nell is not executed, Grace will live under fear that her great secret might be spread by Nell as a revenge. The minister's family will live under fear and preoccupation because they have already lied to everyone as well as bribing the witch-hunter to falsely accuse Nell. The characters will develop in great depth now that the atmosphere has shifted.

CHAPTER 9

1. Patience finally knows that Grace has been lying the entire time. How would this affect the lives of Grace and Patience?

Patience will now no longer believe her family and will seek an independent life. She was never the center of the attention of her family as well as being the last one to know so she will not be the same sweet innocent girl she has been. Grace, in the other

case, will lose the power she had over Patience now that Patience knows a big secret of herself.

2. Nell meets her dun-chicken and notices a lot of difference. What does the change in the dun-chicken mean?

The change in dun-chicken indicates that there are inevitable changes done to the world and that things can never be the same as it has been in the past. Numerous changes were made in the plot. Grace became pregnant, the cunning woman died and Nell is friends with the prince. Everyone has changed in some ways and they will not be the same because they went through too many events and new feelings have taken place inside them.

3. At the end of the chapter, the piskies conversation foreshadow the future of Nell and the prince. What do you think of the conversation?

The piskies are mythical creatures in the story so they are not the entire truth. However, piskies do have the power to see the future so it indicates that Nell will live happy and the others will be punished for their crimes.

CHAPTER 10

1. Who do you think is responsible for Patience's behavior: Grace, the minister, or the towns people?

The minister's family is responsible for Patience because they have never paid much attention to the girl. Grace was the prettiest and the oldest so everyone paid more attention to Grace. Patience had no one to take care of her as well as protect her from

her sister's force. The minister did not even bother himself to know more about his second daughter as well as Grace who only cared about herself.

2. What do you think about Patience? Do you think she is lying to the people that her sister is a witch out of revenge, or is she really believing that Grace is a witch?

Patience is a gullible girl who tends to make judgments based on her own idea instead of analyzing them. Thus, she relies more on her own memory and feelings. She thus believes that she has encountered the devil in the past however knows that her sister and herself are not witches. However, in order to avoid the execution and to revenge her sister for her lies, she decides to turn her sister in. Thus, she becomes more like Grace, the one who she despised, at the end of the book.

3. Who do you think the title The Minister's Daughter is referring to? Why?

At first, I thought it was referring it to Grace since she was the one who was causing all the troubles. She was the one who brought up the topic of witchcraft as well as killing the cunning woman. However, at the end, Patience makes her revenge by accusing her sister of being the true witch. It was Patience who showed the most development in the novel. The novel, although it states Grace and Nell to be the protagonists, has more parts of Patience involved in the plot and Patience is the only character in the last chapter who shows up and leaves the strongest impression out of the towns people. Thus, the daughter the title The Minister's Daughter is referring to is Patience.